

012.P6002

REMARKS

Claims 2-27, 30-37, and 54 are now pending in the above-identified application. No claims are currently amended. Claims 28 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 28 and 29 have been cancelled in order to allow the remaining claims to proceed to issuance, however, Assignee does not concede to or agree with the Examiner's position regarding the patentability claims 28 and 29. In addition, this cancellation should not result in prosecution history estoppel with respect to the remaining claims, at least in part, because Assignee reserves the right and intends to pursue these and/or similar claims in a continuation of the present application. Additionally, Assignee respectfully asserts that prosecution history estoppel should not result from this amendment because the amendment does not narrow the scope of the remaining claims. In addition claims 28-53 and 55-63 have also been cancelled without prejudice in response to an earlier restriction requirement. Assignee respectfully asserts that this amendment should likewise not result in prosecution history estoppel because Assignee reserves the right and intends to pursue those and/or similar claims in a divisional of the present application. Finally, Assignee respectfully asserts that prosecution history estoppel should not result from this amendment because the amendment does not narrow the scope of the remaining claims.

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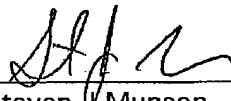
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Dated: May 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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